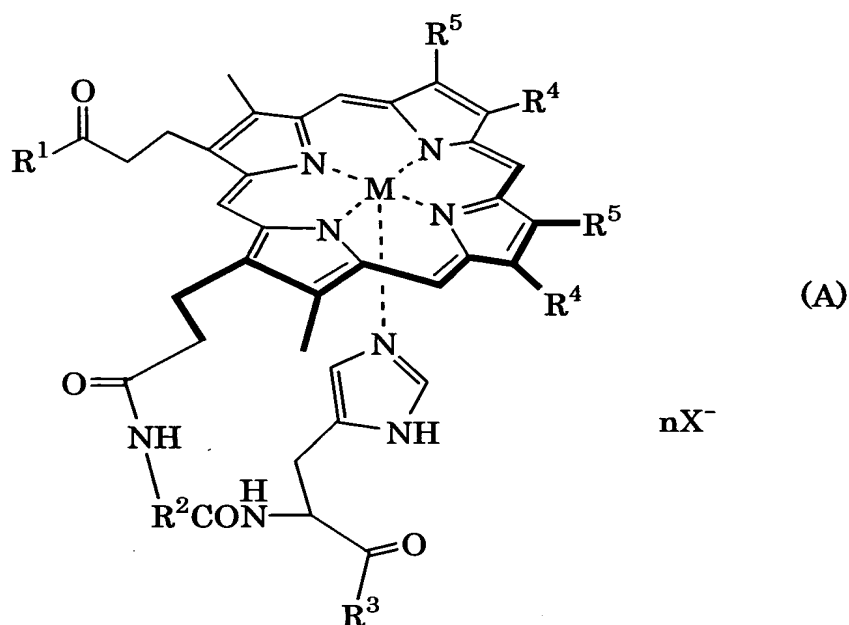


WHAT IS CLAIMED IS:

1. A porphyrin compound represented by general formula (A):



5 where R^1 denotes a $C_1 - C_{18}$ alkyloxy group, a $C_1 - C_{18}$ alkylamino group, or a peptide having 1 - 6 α -amino acids and having a hydroxyl group, a benzyl oxy group
 10 or a methoxy group at the C-terminal; R^2 denotes a residual group after removal of an amino group and a carboxyl group from an α -amino acid; R^3 denotes a $C_1 - C_{18}$ alkyloxy group, a $C_1 - C_{18}$ alkylamino group, or a peptide having 1 - 6 α -amino acids and having a
 15 hydroxyl group, a benzyloxy group or a methoxy group at the C-terminal; each R^4 and each R^5 denote either a methyl group, or a hydrogen atom, a vinyl group, an ethyl group, a 1-methoxyethyl group, a 1-bromoethyl group or a formyl group, wherein, where each R^4 denotes

a methyl group, each R^5 denotes a hydrogen atom, a vinyl group, an ethyl group, a 1-methoxyethyl group, 1-bromoethyl group or a formyl group, and where each R^4 denotes a hydrogen atom, a vinyl group, an ethyl group, a 1-methoxyethyl group, a 1-bromoethyl group or a formyl group, each R^5 denotes a methyl group; M denotes two hydrogen atoms bonded to the two pyrrole nitrogen atoms or an ion of a transition metal belonging to the fourth to fifth periods in the Periodic Table; X^- denotes a halogen ion that is present where M denotes the transition metal ion; and n which denotes the number of X is the number obtained by subtracting 2 from the valency of the transition metal ion.

2. The porphyrin compound according to claim 1, wherein each R^4 denotes a hydrogen atom, a vinyl group, an ethyl group, a 1-methoxy ethyl group, a 1-bromo ethyl group or a formyl group, and each R^5 denotes a methyl group.

3. The porphyrin compound according to claim 1, wherein each R^4 denotes a methyl group, and each R^5 denotes a vinyl group, an ethyl group, a 1-methoxy ethyl group, a 1-bromo ethyl group or a formyl group.

4. The porphyrin compound according to claim 1, wherein M denotes Fe or Co.

5. The porphyrin compound according to claim 4, wherein Fe is divalent or trivalent.

6. The porphyrin compound according to claim 4,

wherein Co is divalent.

7. A porphyrin metal complex-albumin inclusion compound having the porphyrin compound defined in claim 4 included in albumin.

5 8. An artificial oxygen carrier comprising the porphyrin metal complex-albumin inclusion compound defined in claim 7 as an active component.